

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04 A-01

OPR-02 SY-04 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 210820Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2633

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT AO

SUBJECT: LABOR SCENE MOSTLY QUIET; LOBITO STRIKE OVER

REF: LUANDA 332

1. LABOR THAW HERE STILL ONLY PALE REFLECTION LISBON EXPERIENCE. ONLY REAL STRIKE THUS FAR WAS TWO DAY EFFORT BY PORT WORKERS AT LOBITO. MODERATE AMOUNT OF AGITATION HAS CENTERED ON LARGE EMPLOYERS INCLUDING GOVERNMENT; COMMON DEMANDS INCLUDE 50-100 PER CENT WAGE HIKES, FULLER MEDICAL BENEFITS AND SOMETIMES WHOLESALE FIRING OF MANAGEMENT.

2. MOST SUCCESS THUS FAR HAS BEEN IN PUBLIC SECTOR WHERE NON-TENURED SCHOOL TEACHERS FORCED IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR STATUS. LOW-PAID LUANDA PORT WORKERS RECEIVED PAY RAISE SHORTLY AFTER COUP.

3. INDICATIONS OF VARYING DEGREES UNREST IN FOLLOWING COMPANIES: TAAG (INTERNAL AIR CARRIER), PETROANGOL REFINERY, PUBLIC TRANSIT (BUS) COMPANY, A LOCAL BREWERY AND PORT OF LUANDA. TAAG EMPLOYEES
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DEMANDS (INCLUDING "FIRE MANAGMENT") REPORTEDLY HAVE LED TO

RESIGNATION OF AIR LINES' COMPETENT DE FACTO CHIEF EXECUTIVE.
SOME ORGANIZING ACTIVITY BY CABINDA GULF EMPLOYEES BUT EXTENT,
DIRECTION NOT YET CLEAR.

4. TWO-DAY LOBITO DOCK STRIKE (REFTEL) ENDED MAY 20; NO FURTHER
INFO ON STRIKERS' GOALS, GOVERNMENT POSITION OR SETTLEMENT.
STRIKE NOT REPORTED BY LUANDA MEDIA.

5. COMMENT: FACT WORKFORCE IN TRADITIONALLY MOST UNIONIZABLE
OCCUPATIONS (INDUSTRY AND BUILDING TRADES) IS LARGELY BLACK
WHEREAS WHITES PREDOMINATE MANAGERIAL OR RE-EMPLOYED POSITIONS
ACTS TO REDUCE POTENTIAL FOR VIGOROUS LABOR ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA.
THIS BECAUSE A) WHILE BLACKS LEGITIMATELY DISSATISFIED WITH
PRESENT WAGES, THEY ARE MORE FEARFUL OF WHITE VIOLENCE IN
RESPONSE TO PICKETTING OR DEMONSTRATING, AND B) GENUINE UNIONISM
NOT EVEN DIM MEMORY HERE AMONG ANY BLACKS.

6. BUSINESSMEN EXPRESS USUAL FEAR OF WAGE DEMANDS "GETTING OUT OF
HAND." HOWEVER, THERE IS SURPRISING DEGREE OF SENTIMENT AMONG
YOUNGER BUSINESSMEN FOR MANAGEMENT SHAKE-UPS, PARTICULARLY RE

ARGE COMPANIES WITH OVER-PAID, PARASITIC BOARDS OF DIRECTORS
RESIDENT IN METROPOLE.
BRIGGS

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